



## SEASON'S GREETINGS

# LTC ALERT

CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR LONG-TERM CARE

December 2006

### Medi-Cal Resource Limits for 2007

The 2007 Spousal Impoverishment limits have been released. The Community Resource Allowance (CSRA) is **\$101,640**

and the

Minimum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance (MMMNA) is **\$2,541**

### United States Department of Health and Human Services Convenes Choices for Independence: A National Leadership Summit

**December 5, 2006:** Health and Human Services (HHS) secretary Mike Leavitt called on aging policy leaders to be active participants in federal, state and local efforts to transform long term care.

Speaking before nearly 1,300 representatives of aging, health and long term care agencies and organizations attending the "Choices for Independence: A National Leadership Summit",

Secretary Leavitt was joined by HHS Assistant Secretary for Aging Josefina G. Carbonell and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Acting Administrator Leslie Norwalk in calling on these representatives to work together to help older Americans and their families access the tools they need to make informed decisions about and plan ahead for their health and long term care.

Secretary Leavitt also outlined federal initiatives underway to help older Americans stay healthy by reducing their risk of disease, disability and injury, and to assist moderate and low-income individuals who are at risk of nursing home placement to remain at home.

The summit is the Administration on Aging's (AoA) first opportunity to publicly showcase the reauthorized Older Americans Act (OAA) since the legislation was signed by President Bush on Oct. 17, 2006. Key provisions of the new OAA contain principles from the Administration's Choices for Independence Initiative, which advance the President's New Freedom Initiative and support HHS Secretary Leavitt's priorities of prevention and value-driven health care.

The new OAA will modernize community-based long term care systems by empowering consumers to make informed decisions about their care options, give people greater control over the types of services they receive, create more opportunities for high-risk individuals to avoid institutional care, and enable more seniors to

live healthy lives in their communities. Changes in the OAA support and complement ongoing changes in the Medicare and Medicaid programs to provide increased options for and greater integration of home and community-based care and services for older and disabled individuals and to help rebalance health and long term care for the 21st century.

The two-day summit will spotlight best practices, partnerships and initiatives at the state, tribal and community level as well as within private foundations, and provide opportunities for increased coordination and collaboration. The summit will also include a special post-summit session on the reauthorized OAA with a focus on describing the opportunities it presents for the national aging services network to help shape the future of long term care in the United States.

Source: AoA Press Office, (202) 357-3507, December 5, 2006. All HHS press releases, fact sheets, and other press materials are available at [www.hhs.gov/news](http://www.hhs.gov/news)

### **Partnership Policy Minimums for 2007**

The minimum daily nursing facility benefit in California is **\$140 for 2007**. In 2007, the average nursing home costs will increase to **\$200 per day**.

### **CPLTC WEBSITE VISIT STATISTICS**

The year 2006 produced the Partnership's highest number of monthly website visits since the inception of our website in 1999. During March 2006, there were 5,400 recorded visits to our website; and in May 2006, recorded visits totaled 5,500!!! Monthly statistics reveal that the Partnership received an average of 4,924 website visits compared to 4,017 average monthly visits previously in 2005.

Fantastic news for the Partnership!!! We are pleased with these findings and remain hopeful that future visits to our website will continue to increase public awareness about the Partnership and the importance of long-term care planning.

## **Partnership Is Recipient of Gold Award**

The California Partnership for Long-Term Care is the recipient of the 2006 National Public Health Information Coalition **GOLD** Award for ***Excellence in Public Health Communication***. More information to come in the Partnership Newsletter.

## **Department of Health Services Re-organization**

FYI---On July 1, 2007, the California Department of Health Services will be re-organized into two separate departments:

- **the new Department of Public Health** - will focus on protecting and promoting the health status of Californians through programs and policies that use population-wide interventions.
- **the new Department of Health Care Services** - will focus on protecting and promoting the health status of Californians through the financing and delivery of individual health care services.

## **SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!**

The ILTCI Conference Association presents:  
The Seventh Annual Intercompany  
Long Term Care Insurance Conference  
**March 25 to March 28, 2007**  
Adams Mark Hotel, Dallas, Texas

Visit [www.ILTCIConf.org](http://www.ILTCIConf.org) for more information



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